



SIERRA CLUB

Connecticut Chapter
P.O. Box 270595
West Hartford, Connecticut 06127
connecticut.sierraclub.org

Testimony Before the Government Administration and Elections Committees on 2.22.23

Dear Government Administration and Election Chairs Flexer and Blumenthal, Vice-Chairs Slap and Morrin Bello, Ranking Members Sampson and Mastrofrancesco, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

On behalf of the Sierra Club and our more than 40,000 members and supporters in Connecticut, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

The Sierra Club is committed to defending everyone's right to a healthy world by tackling the serious challenges of a warming climate, unprecedented levels of pollution, the waste management crisis, biodiversity loss, and the dangers of toxics. The ability to vote to determine the future of how our state moves forward addressing these issues is the key to solving them.

**HJ 1- Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow
No-Excuse Absentee Voting**

**SJ 29- Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow
No-Excuse Absentee Voting**

HB 5004- An Act Implementing Early Voting

SB 1057- An Act Concerning the Secretary of State and Early Voting

SB 1064- An Act Concerning the Implementation of Early Voting

Sierra Club Connecticut supports HJ 1, and SJ 29. We urge you to adopt the proposed resolutions to allow no-excuse absentee voting, joining 35 other states in doing so. The legislature should pass it for the required second time this session so the resolution will be on the statewide ballot in 2024.

Sierra Club Connecticut supports HB 5004, SB 1057, and SB 1064 with some added recommendations. We need to design Connecticut's first ever early voting system so we urge swift passage of a plan to give town officials time to incorporate any budgetary or process changes in advance of the 2023 municipal elections. We recommend the plan include at least two weeks of early voting including weekends and evening hours. There should be an option for higher population towns to offer multiple voting locations, as well as locations accessible by public transportation. We also suggest that the state be fiscally responsible for added municipal costs incurred by compliance with these requirements.

Thank you for consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

Ann Gadwah, Advocacy and Outreach Organizer
Sierra Club Connecticut